City to get 30 mgd more water from today

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI, Dec 31: The city will start getting the remaining 30 mgd of water per day of the K-2 (Karachi Water Supply Scheme) project from Friday morning.

Pumping of additional 30 mgd of water began at Dhabeji pumping station on Thursday and it would enter the city's existing water system some time after Thursday midnight.

"After getting the additional 30 mgd of water, the KWSB will be able to help solve the problem of water deficit areas", said KWSB chief engineer Misbahuddin Fareed.

Asked which parts of the city would be benefited with the additional water, the KWSB official said the water would be used to enhance the quota of various parts of the city which also include North Karachi.

Moreover, after the completion of the interconnection work currently being undertaken at Manghopir Road, near Asbestos factory, a reasonable quantity of water from the additional 30 mgd will be diverted to Orangi and Baldia Town through the newly- set up pumping station of North-East Karachi (NEK) pumping station.

The interconnection work which is being jointly carried out by the officials of army's engineering corps and the KWSB is expected to be completed in the next 48 hours.

The Army's engineering corps' commanding officer, Brig Ghazali and the KWSB's managing director Brig Mansoor Ahmed in coordination with each other were nowadays supervising the interconnection works which are aimed at meeting the water needs of the areas hooked to Hub dam source when water supply from the source would come to an end.

Meanwhile, power failures of longer duration at the KWSB's pumping stations continued to affect the water supply situation in different parts of the city on the third consecutive day on Thursday.

The KWSB attributed the current water shortage in some localities to less supply of water from the Hub dam source as well as to frequent power failures taking place at various KWSB pumping stations for the last three days.

DELISTED: The KWSB has delisted five hospitals from its panel reportedly on administrative grounds.

The hospitals which have been delisted from the KWSB panel include Siddiqui General Hospital, Highway Hospital, Sindh Medical Centre, Naseema Maternity Home and General Hospital and Yasar Medical Centre.

Meanwhile, the KWSB's People's Labour Union's general secretary, Mohsin Raza, while lauding the KWSB MD's decision, has urged him to inquire whether the Rs 350 million paid to these hospitals in a short span of merely three months (from Aug 1998 to Nov 1998) was justified and if not action should be initiated against the concerned KWSB officials responsible for paying such a huge amount to the hospitals.

WATER CRISIS: Different parts of the city, including Khokhrapar, Gulshan-i-Iqbal block 4-A and parts of Korangi, have been facing water crisis for the last several months.

Residents of Saudia Colony (Khokharapar) said their locality had been facing water crisis because dozens of illegal connections have been taken by the residents of G and H areas.

GOVERNOR: Governor Moin Uddin Haider has ordered immediate implementation of supply of additional 25 million gallons water daily to Karachi and upgradation of North-East Karachi Pump House, adds APP.

He directed that the project be completed as per the fixed target by March 1, 1999.

The 25 mgd Khawaja Ajmer Nagri pump house project will be constructed in district central and these would help improve water supply situation in Central and West Districts.

At a meeting held at the Governor House, the Commander Corps Engineer 5-Corp, Brig Asif Ghazali briefed the Governor about the project details.

The project costing Rs 670 million was approved by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his last visit to Karachi.

The meeting was told that Army Engineers of 5-Corp will supervise the project in coordination with KWSB staff.

The governor issued directive to chief secretary for immediate release of Rs 10 million for expeditious implementation of the project.

He also issued directive for initiation of steps to check water wastage and to buildup public awareness about it. He also stressed the need for working on plans for supply of drinking water to desert areas of the province.

The governor was informed that leftover supply of 30 mgd of water out of 100 MGD K-2 project, which could not be supplied because of technical hitch, will commence on Thursday.